

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for enabling a plurality of investors to make periodic investments in a portfolio of securities comprising the steps of:
 - receiving data from each of the plurality of investors regarding amounts of
 - 5 money to be invested in each investor's portfolio;
 - accessing an electronic payment system upon receiving instructions from an investor to purchase securities to obtain payment for the required purchases; and
 - storing each investor's portfolio in a central database.
- 10 2. A system for creating a portfolio of assets and executing trades in the assets to modify the portfolio, comprising:
 - a) a first processor interfaced with an investor's PC to select a plurality of assets to be in the investor's portfolio based on the investor's indicated preferences, to manage the portfolio in accordance with market changes and changes in the investor's indicated
 - 15 preferences, and to electronically place at least one trading order in accordance with the investor's indicated preferences;
 - b) a communication interface coupled to the processor and coupled to a plurality of other investors by which the processor electronically places the at least one order;
 - c) a central processor coupled to the communication interface, receiving a
 - 20 plurality of trading orders from among the plurality of investor's PC's, including at least one economically unviable trading order, aggregating all received trading orders into a single order for each asset among the received trading orders, and electronically forwarding the aggregated trading orders for execution to a third party.
- 25 3. A method for creating a diversified portfolio of investments using a series of small periodic payments comprising the steps of:
 - soliciting user preference information from a user, said user preference information including a list of investments, and desired rates of risk and return;
 - creating a portfolio of investments based on user specified rates of risk and
 - 30 return;
 - transmitting the portfolio of investments to a central computer;
 - splitting the portfolio of investments into its constituent investments; and
 - executing trades to implement the constituent investments where possible, and acting as principle for those investments where an amount to invest is not sufficient to
 - 35 purchase a whole unit of the underlying investment.